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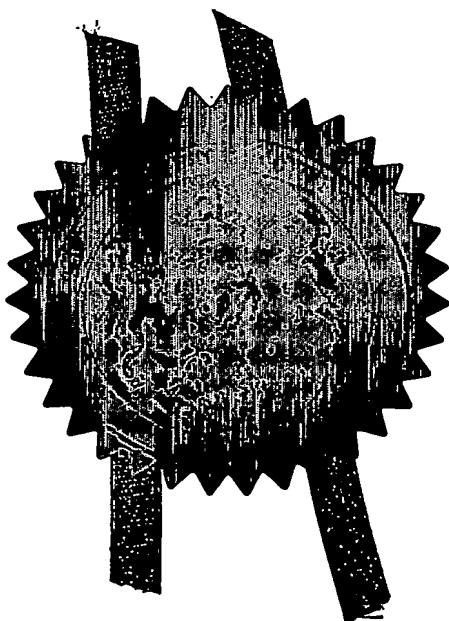
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Dated 1 December 2004

## Request for grant of a patent

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1. Your reference	DAG/P702531GB		
2. Patent application number (The Patent Office will fill in this part)	06 NOV 2003 0325947 0		
3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)	<u>HAWKES</u> , Gary J. 55B Warrington Crescent London W9 1EA 8280 836001	<u>HAWKES</u> , Stuart G. 14 Gilbert Scott Court Whielden St. Amersham Buckinghamshire HP7 0AP	
Patents ADP number (if you know it)	874 8535001		
If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation			
4. Title of the invention	Subliminal Audio Burglar Deterrent		
5. Name of your agent (if you have one)	W.P.THOMPSON & CO.		
"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)	55 Drury Lane London WC2B 5SQ		
Patents ADP number (if you know it)	158007		
6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number	Country	Priority application number (if you know it)	Date of filing (Day/month/year)
7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application	Number of earlier application		Date of filing (Day/month/year)
8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'yes' if: a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or c) any named applicant is a corporate body.			

## TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Subliminal Audio Burglar Deterrent

## BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

### 1. Field of the Invention

5 [0001] The present invention relates in general to a system and method for providing subliminal auditory signals to people so as to unconsciously deceive the listener's perception of reality, and thus modify the listener's behavior. More specifically, the present invention relates to subliminal auditory signals below a would-be house burglar's conscious recognition as a means to dissuade such persons from actually  
10 carrying out their intent to burglarize a particular home employing the invention.

### 2. Background Art

[0002] Subliminal messages effecting the unconscious mind are well known in the art. For example, United States Patent No. 4,395,600 issued to Lundy et al. discloses the  
15 use of subliminal auditory signals to provide anti-shoplifting messages below the conscious recognition of would-be shoplifters so as to deter such persons from actually carrying out their crime. However, the prior art does not address the techniques employed to create the subliminal message itself. Indeed, Lundy et al. merely discloses a means for continuously adjusting the amplitude of the subliminal message signal to  
20 insure that the message remains below the threshold of conscious awareness.

[0003] Accordingly, it would be desirable to provide a system and a device for causing a burglar to unconsciously perceive the simulated presence of at least one person or animal in a home or office so as to dissuade that burglar from committing their crime.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The present invention comprises, in part, a subliminal audio burglar deterrent system comprising a playback system operable to broadcast audible sounds and media operably compatible with the playback system. The playback system preferably includes

5 at least one loudspeaker, a signal amplifier, and a signal source. The media preferably includes at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal, not consciously perceivable, operably configured to simulate the presence of at least one person or animal in a space being protected. The at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal is, in a preferred embodiment, capable of reproduction with maximum realism on a

10 conventional sound reproduction system, which may be hidden or unobtrusive, the signal being recorded utilizing primarily midrange and high audible frequencies with no compression of the at least one audio signal for maximum realism, and further being monaurally recorded for optimum concentration of sound dispersal, and being capable of endless playback with no perceived periods of silence greater than 10 seconds in

5 length. In addition, the at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal is preferably recorded at a recording level that is relatively high as compared to the ambient background noise. Application of the subliminal audio burglar deterrent system has a subliminal effect on a listener so as to dissuade the listener from committing a burglary in the space being protected.

) [0006] The present invention also comprises, in part, a subliminal audio burglar deterrent device comprising at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal, not consciously perceivable, operably configured to simulate the presence of at least one person or animal in a space being protected. The preferred at least one audio signal is



chosen on the basis that it can only be made by people or animals in attendance and not by machinery left to run unattended. The at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal is preferably capable of reproduction with maximum realism on a conventional sound reproduction system, which may be hidden or at least unobtrusive, the signal 5 being recorded utilizing primarily midrange and high audible frequencies with no compression of the at least one audio signal for maximum realism. The signal is preferably monaurally recorded for optimum concentration of sound dispersal, and being capable of endless playback with no perceived periods of silence greater than 10 seconds in length. Furthermore, the at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal is 10 recorded at a recording level that is relatively high as compared to the ambient background noise. Application of the subliminal audio burglar deterrent device has a subliminal effect on a listener so as to dissuade the listener from committing a burglary in the space being protected. The media may also include recorded content that is consciously perceivable by an intruder that likewise contains threatening or deterrent 15 messages.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] FIG. 1 shows a diagram illustrating some of the various audio sources used to produce the subliminal audio burglar deterrent according to the present invention.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0008] While this invention is susceptible of embodiment in many different forms, there is shown in the drawings and will herein be described in detail, a preferred embodiment with the understanding that the present disclosure should be considered as an 5 exemplification of the principles of the invention and is not intended to limit the invention to the embodiment so illustrated.

[0009] A preferred embodiment of the subliminal audio burglar deterrent system includes a playback system having common audio components such as loudspeakers, amplifier, and a signal source (i.e. a hard drive, a compact disk (CD) player, digital 10 video/versatile disk (DVD), AM/FM tuner, etc.) providing line signal output to the amplifier. The signal source in a preferred embodiment comprises a compact disk player capable of playing at least one compact disk containing pre-recorded audible 15 sounds. The sound system preferably is a conventional sound reproduction system. The equipment may be small, hidden or at least unobtrusively placed, so as to enhance the effect that the sounds are indeed ambient, and not from a particular, artificial, source.

[0010] In a preferred embodiment, the compact disk contains recordings of various household and/or office noises, including sounds selected from such common, everyday sounds such as a vacuum cleaner being used, a blender being used, footsteps, doors opening and closing, cutlery being used, a dog growling or barking, chairs being moved, 20 keyboards being used, fax machines and telephones in use, photocopiers being used, knives being sharpened, printers being used, bottles being moved, tableware and crockery being used, electric tooth brush being used, two or more people talking, and builders using common carpentry tools, among others. An examination of Fig. 1

illustrates some of the many household and office noises that might be recorded and placed onto a compact disk or other media compatible with the signal source.

[0011] In a preferred embodiment, the household or office noises that are actually recorded are chosen on the basis that they can only be made by people or animals in attendance and not by machinery left to run unattended. In addition, these noises are also dynamic sounds which reproduce effectively on small ("modest") sound systems, utilizing midrange and high audible frequencies (i.e. frequencies typically above 300 Hz up to approximately 20,000 Hz), recorded without any electronic compression, for maximum realism upon playback.

[0012] In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the compact disk player and/or the compact disk itself is configured to play the prerecorded household or office noises endlessly so as to never exceed a 10 second period of silence. Preferably, the length of the recording of uninterrupted, non-repeating content will be sufficiently great that under normal circumstances, an intruder will be prompted to leave the premises, long before the recording repeats itself. A modern compact disk has a maximum recording length of about 70 minutes. Presumably, upon exposure to the deterrent messages, an intruder would be prompted to leave the premises long before such a period lapses.

[0013] The present invention works by subliminally confusing a would-be burglar into believing that the house or office is actually occupied by a human or animal, by means of the audible broadcast of the prerecorded sounds, so as to dissuade the burglar from carrying out their crime. The subliminal effect is achieved by masking the prerecorded household or office noises with natural ambient, environmental sounds in a rhythm that



engages the burglar's mind unconsciously so as to create fear beyond the apprehension caused by the cognitive recognition of danger associated with the simulated presence of a human or animal. The masking is accomplished by recording the household and office noises so as to have an signal amplitude higher than that of

5 the ambient background noise. In addition, layered within these recordings are ambient environment noise such as dogs growling or barking, a police siren blaring in the distance, a gun being loaded, etc. The recordings are also made in monaural mode so as to maximize the concentration of sound dispersal. The prerecorded household and office noises in the preferred embodiment of the present invention would be capable of

10 being broadcast on a conventional sound reproduction equipment, which may be hidden or at least unobtrusive, so as to maximize the confusion and perception errors in the burglar's mind. Preferably, the sounds will be selected so as to not only subconsciously prompt the intruder to abstain from criminal or harmful behavior, but also to be prompted to leave the premises quickly.

15 [0014] In alternative preferred embodiments of the invention, the recording, in addition to bearing subliminal or otherwise not fully consciously audible messages, the recording content may also include overtly, consciously audible messages of a deterrent nature. This may produce an even greater impact upon the intruder, in that the feelings of dread or discomfort may be perceived as being greater than can be legitimately

20 attributable to the overt, consciously perceived sounds, and thus confusing to the intruder, leading to enhanced feelings of insecurity, and hopefully, greater prompting to depart the premises.

What is claimed is:

1. A subliminal audio burglar deterrent system, comprising:
  - a playback system operable to broadcast audible sounds, the playback system including at least one loudspeaker, a signal amplifier, and a signal source;
  - 5 media operably compatible with the playback system; wherein the media includes at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal, not consciously perceivable, operably configured to simulate the presence of at least one person or animal in a space being protected;
  - 10 wherein the at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal further includes being capable of reproduction with maximum realism on a conventional sound reproduction system, which may be hidden or at least unobtrusive,
  - 15 being recorded utilizing primarily midrange and high audible frequencies with no compression of the at least one audio signal for maximum realism,
  - being monaurally recorded for optimum concentration of sound dispersal,
  - 20 being capable of endless playback with no perceived periods of silence greater than 10 seconds in length;
  - wherein the at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal is recorded at a recording level that is relatively high as compared to the ambient background noise; and
  - 25 wherein application of the subliminal audio burglar deterrent system has a subliminal effect on a listener so as to dissuade the listener from committing a burglary in the space being protected.
2. The invention according to Claim 1 wherein the media is a compact disk (CD).
3. The invention according to Claim 1 wherein the subliminal effect is achieved by recording the at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal in a rhythm so as to engage the listener's mind unconsciously so as to create fear and trepidation.

4. The invention according to Claim 1 wherein the subliminal effect is achieved by playback of at least one man's voice having a deep and serious tone.
5. The invention according to Claim 1 wherein the at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal contains recordings of household noises.
6. The invention according to Claim 5 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of a vacuum cleaner.
7. The invention according to Claim 5 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of a blender.
8. The invention according to Claim 5 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of at least one person's footsteps.
9. The invention according to Claim 5 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of at least one door opening and closing.
10. The invention according to Claim 5 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of cutlery being used.
11. The invention according to Claim 5 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of at least one chair being moved.
12. The invention according to Claim 5 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of a computer keyboard being used.
13. The invention according to Claim 5 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of a facsimile machine in use.
14. The invention according to Claim 5 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of a telephone being used.
15. The invention according to Claim 5 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of a knife being sharpened.

16. The invention according to Claim 5 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of at least one dog growling, barking, chirping, or howling.
17. The invention according to Claim 5 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of a printer in use.
18. The invention according to Claim 5 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of crockery being moved.
19. The invention according to Claim 5 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of an electric toothbrush being used.
20. The invention according to Claim 5 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of at least carpentry tool being used.
21. The invention according to Claim 1 wherein the at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal contains recordings of workplace noises.
22. The invention according to Claim 21 wherein the workplace noises comprise sounds of at least one person's footsteps.
23. The invention according to Claim 21 wherein the workplace noises comprise sounds of at least one door opening and closing.
24. The invention according to Claim 21 wherein the workplace noises comprise sounds of at least one chair being moved.
25. The invention according to Claim 21 wherein the workplace noises comprise sounds of a computer keyboard being used.
26. The invention according to Claim 21 wherein the workplace noises comprise sounds of a facsimile machine in use.
27. The invention according to Claim 21 wherein the workplace noises comprise sounds of a telephone being used.

28. The invention according to Claim 21 wherein the workplace noises comprise sounds of a photocopier being used.

29. A subliminal audio burglar deterrent device, comprising:

5 at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal, not consciously perceivable, operably configured to simulate the presence of at least one person or animal in a space being protected, the at least one audio signal being chosen on the basis that it can only be made by people or animals in attendance and not by machinery left to run unattended;

the at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal further including

10 being capable of reproduction with maximum realism on a conventional sound reproduction system, which may be hidden or at least unobtrusive,

15 being recorded utilizing primarily midrange and high audible frequencies with no compression of the at least one audio signal for maximum realism,

being monaurally recorded for optimum concentration of sound dispersal,

20 being capable of endless playback with no perceived periods of silence greater than 10 seconds in length;

wherein the at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal is recorded at a recording level that is relatively high as compared to the ambient background noise; and

25 wherein application of the subliminal audio burglar deterrent device has a subliminal effect on a listener so as to dissuade the listener from committing a burglary in the space being protected.

30. The invention according to Claim 29 wherein the subliminal effect is achieved by recording the at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal in a rhythm so as to engage the listener's mind unconsciously so as to create fear and trepidation.

31. The invention according to Claim 29 wherein the subliminal effect is achieved by playback of at least one man's voice having a deep and serious tone.
32. The invention according to Claim 29 wherein the at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal contains recordings of household noises.
33. The invention according to Claim 32 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of a vacuum cleaner.
34. The invention according to Claim 32 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of a blender.
35. The invention according to Claim 32 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of at least one person's footsteps.
36. The invention according to Claim 32 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of at least one door opening and closing.
37. The invention according to Claim 32 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of cutlery being used.
38. The invention according to Claim 32 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of at least one chair being moved.
39. The invention according to Claim 32 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of a computer keyboard being used.
40. The invention according to Claim 32 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of a facsimile machine in use.
41. The invention according to Claim 32 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of a telephone being used.
42. The invention according to Claim 32 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of a knife being sharpened.

43. The invention according to Claim 32 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of at least one dog growling, barking, chirping, or howling.
44. The invention according to Claim 32 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of a printer in use.
45. The invention according to Claim 32 wherein the household noises comprise sounds crockery being moved.
46. The invention according to Claim 32 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of an electric toothbrush being used.
47. The invention according to Claim 32 wherein the household noises comprise sounds of at least carpentry tool being used.
48. The invention according to Claim 29 wherein the at least one prerecorded dynamic audio signal contains recordings of workplace noises.
49. The invention according to Claim 48 wherein the workplace noises comprise sounds of at least one person's footsteps.
50. The invention according to Claim 48 wherein the workplace noises comprise sounds of at least one door opening and closing.
51. The invention according to Claim 48 wherein the workplace noises comprise sounds of at least one chair being moved.
52. The invention according to Claim 48 wherein the workplace noises comprise sounds of a computer keyboard being used.
53. The invention according to Claim 48 wherein the workplace noises comprise sounds of a facsimile machine in use.
54. The invention according to Claim 48 wherein the workplace noises comprise sounds of a telephone being used.

55. The invention according to Claim 48 wherein the workplace noises comprise sounds of a photocopier being used.

56. The invention according to Claim 1, wherein the media also includes at least one prerecorded audio signal that is consciously perceivable by a listener.

57. The invention according to Claim 56, wherein the at least one consciously perceivable prerecorded audio signal contains content that is deterrent in nature to an intruder.

58. The invention according to Claim 29, wherein the media also includes at least one prerecorded audio signal that is consciously perceivable by a listener.

59. The invention according to Claim 58, wherein the at least one consciously perceivable prerecorded audio signal contains content that is deterrent in nature to an intruder.

## ABSTRACT

The present invention is directed to a subliminal audio burglar deterrent device and system wherein a subliminal message is created and broadcast using techniques to unconsciously cause a burglar to mistakenly perceive the presence of a human or an animal in the space being protected.

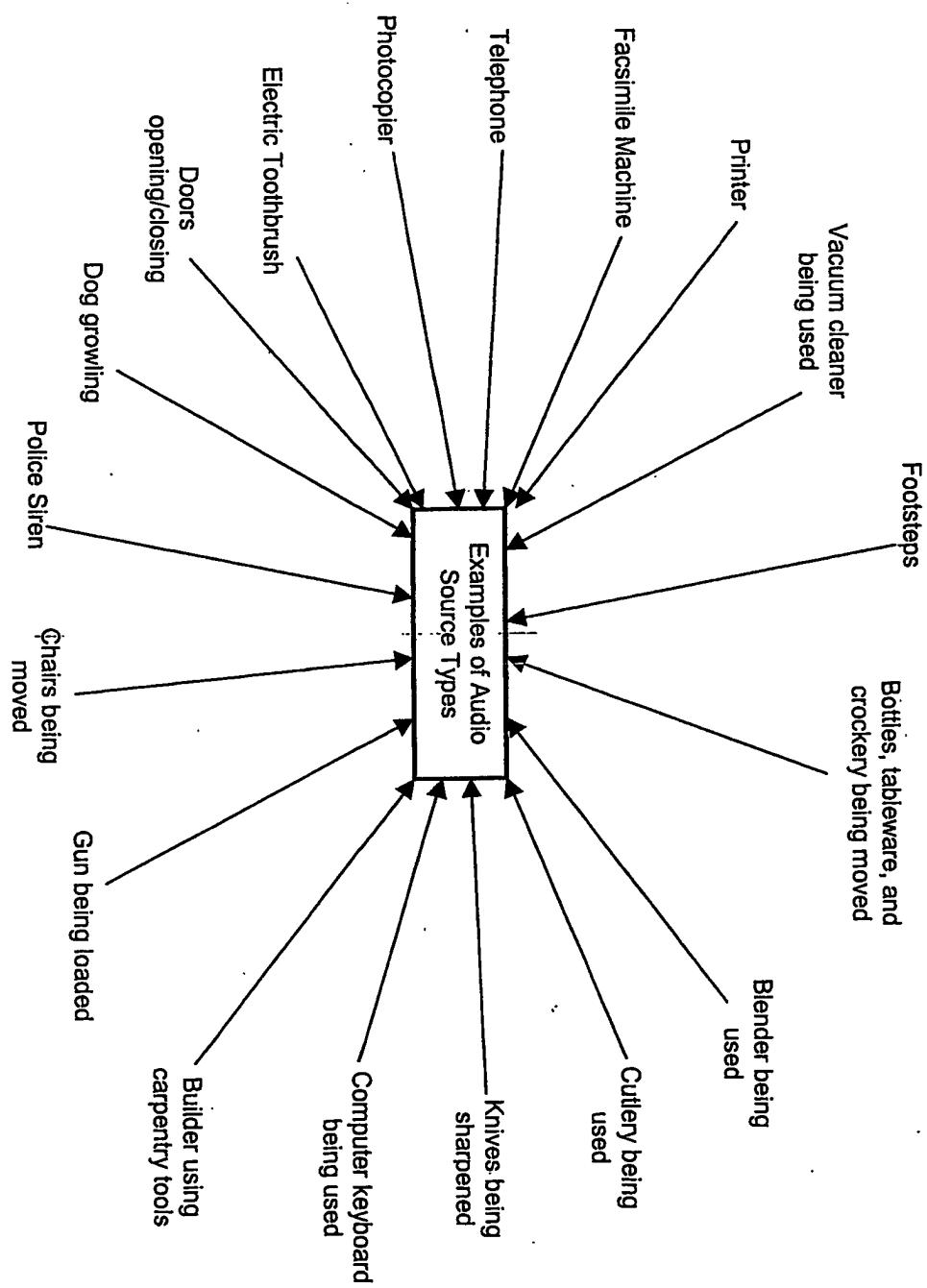


FIG. 1